From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: wdzeares@ix.netcom.com (W. Dennis Zeares)
Subject: [1460] Argonaut PTO
Message-ID: <199512162330.PAA20058@ix10.ix.netcom.com>

Anyone have experience with a "sluggish" PTO tuning mechanism?
Sometimes when I turn on the Argo, I must sit there and spin and spin
and spin the tuning knob for some time to get it to move 10 or 20 kHz.
After I finally get it moving and take it up and down the band a few
times it works fine for the rest of the day. Any ideas? Any one know of
a fix for such a problem?
The Argo works fine. Even got the California FOX with a ham stick on
the second floor patio railing!
E-mail direct to wdzeares@ix.netcom.com
Thanks and 73's,
Dennis K3ETS

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: mykey@aztec.asu.edu (MICHAEL C. TODD)
Subject: [1457] fox
Message-ID: <9512162129.AA18981@aztec.asu.edu>

In that I'm new to QRP and this group, and since I do not wish
to provoke flaming ridicule, will someone please tell me how
this form of FOX hunting works? My only experience with FOX
hunting dates back to the 10 Meter AM days about 40 years ago.
Now I think they are called T- HUNTS.

Thanks es 73 Mike T. W9UQB

--

[B[C

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Roy Boggs <rboggs@pcc-uky.campus.mci.net>
Subject: [1459] Help needed - SWL40-40 es Autek RF Analyst
Message-ID: <199512162222.RAA00467@pcc-uky-01.campus.mci.net>

December 16, 1995 17:15 EST

New to kit building, so be patient with my help requests. Just got started on the SWL 40-40 kit.

1.) In the SWL kit specs, L4 is specified as 10 uH (5T #22,FT37-43); my Autek RF Analyst says 5 turns is 12 uH. So I tried 4 turns and the Autek gave me 8uH. My question is , should I stay with the 5 turns NN1G specified although the inductance is too high, or in this part of circuit is the value not very critical? Can't check the rest of my inductors because:

2.) this morning I turned on the Autek, and the display dimmed very low as if battery was very low, then finally crapped out; a new battery did not bring it back-won't display at all now. Only used it a dozen times es has not been dropped or anything. Has anyone else had this problem? I'm not sure if warranty is up or not...

3.) Since the Autek is dead and can't check the others, should I just wind them as specified and everything will be ok? Any help appreciated!!

73, Roy Boggs KE4KDT
    377 Stumbo Subdivision
    Prestonsburg, KY 41653

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: David Adams <dave@flowserver.stem.com>
Subject: [1455] HW-9 tips needed
Message-ID: <9512161910.AA03420@flowserver.stem.com>

Greetings! I just received my HW-9 in the mail. Seems very well constructed, but the case is in dire need of repainting. Can anyone suggest an available match for the Heath brown that was used?

I'm also looking for a Warc band kit. Anyone have one lying about? I remember someone was bringing a large supply of new kits to Dayton last year...did this happen? Can anyone provide contact info?

Dave

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Steve Thompson <kj7dn@primenet.com>
Subject: [1443] Inverted V Advice

Message-ID: <Pine.BSD.3.91.951215232245.13597A-100000@usr3.primenet.com>

Hi:
Having difficulty making my first solo QRP contact, so I would like to try using an antenna which puts more wire in the air. I'd like to put my G5RV up in the inverted V configuration.

The Handbook says that the Inverted V will behave much like a horizontal dipole if the apex angle is >= 100 degrees. What I cannot figure out is this: What would be the smallest apex angle I could use and still produce an effective signal? What would be the smallest practical apex angle?

Help on this topic would be greatly appreciated ...

73 de Steve

+--+
| Steve C. Thompson - KJ7DN   ________   E-mail: kj7dn@primenet.com |
| Network Administrator   ____/___   steve@cpginc.com |
| Continental Promotion Group   ____/___ |
| Tempe, AZ, USA   H |
| H |
| 602.731.3535   H   "Soon to be" proud builder |
| kj7dn@primenet.com   H   of an OHR Explorer II |
| steve@cpginc.com   H   QRP-L #259 |
+--+

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: "Lau, Zack, KH6CP" <zlau@arrl.org>
Subject: [1448] Measuring low output powers
Message-ID: <30D2FBE6@arrl.org>

Another way of measuring your output power while running low power is to use a directional coupler. Instead of monitoring the coupled line, terminate the main line with a power meter/dummy load. You can then run the coupled line to the antenna!

Thus, if your power meter measures 5 watts, you can use a 30 dB coupler to measure 5 mW of output power. Better yet, those of us with sensitive DC compensated meters with 1 mW sensitivity can measure 1 uW.

To eliminate power drift with varying battery voltage, consider

the use of low dropout regulators, such as the Linear Technogy
LT 1086/85/84 sold by Digi Key, or the National LM2931T/2941T.
You do need a good output cap to keep them from oscillating, but
they only drop about a volt.

Zack KH6CP/1   8 states on 2304 MHz with 2 watts

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net (Tony Drumm)
Subject: [1447] Mice and keys
Message-ID: <199512161609.KAA11183@sparc.isl.net>

A couple messages here reminded me of the keyer-in-a-mouse idea. I remember reading a detailed description of the idea somewhere, but I can't remember where. Was it here this past summer? Or in QST?

Turns out we had to replace the mouse on this computer because the left switch quit working. Being a packrat (pun perhaps intentional), I naturally kept the old mouse. So, can anyone help me find out how to go about building a keyer into it? Does the keyer need to use the original mouse switches? Might still be possible since it was a three-button mouse. What keyer works best? Curtis, maybe? I think the Super CMOS Keyer would probably fit but it would need a host of other buttons for the controls. (Actually, that could be an interesting sight - sort of like the "stick" in a jet fighter!) I do need something to use with my Explorer and I really do hate dragging my Bencher out to the woods. Last time, I took my old manual key.

72/73!
Tony Drumm
internet: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net
Packet: aa0sm@wd0gnk.#semn.mn.usa.na

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: nwqrp@scn.org (SCN User)
Subject: [1442] NW qrp FD Pictures!
Message-ID: <199512160613.WAA11830@scn.org>

Brad and the Gang,

Oops, I forgot to tell you:

With help from Steve Hideg, the NW QRP FD '95 Photos are at the QRP-L Resource Page as well as at the NW QRP Web Site (See Below).

I put our site on a "powerbook" computer along with all the links
(about 3 megabytes in all) and took it to the meeting we had
last Saturday. The computer was passed around and all were enthusiastic.

Let's hope this inspired more QRPers to get on the 'net!

The Dec 95 NWQ Newsletter will be on the WEB sometime this weekend
for your browsing pleasure.

I add new links every week so when you return to the site, don't
forget to RELOAD the pages!

--Brian, KV9X

P.S. I know more of you have QRP photos. Please get together
with Steve so we can see them!

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    i   NorthWest QRP Club   __________
-=[scn]=-   --0---/\--
)|(nwqrp@scn.org   /^\^\/ ^^\
  /_|_\   http://www.scn.org/IP/nwqrp/nwqrp.html   --NW QRP--

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: WJ4PRandy@aol.com
Subject: [1441] OHR400 alignment
Message-ID: <951216010031_91668169@mail04.mail.aol.com>

Hi guys,
I bought a _very_ well built ohr400 from aa7tq. He did a marvelous job
constructing it.
But, being the inquisitive type (I've opened every single radio I've ever
gotten in my life
since age 8) I decided I would "do" the alignment procedure to get familiar
with the
workings of this popular rig.

One thing came up in the alignment at "loop one" on the oscillator board...
I couldnt "pull" the 30 mtr xtal to 14.000 mHz with the stock parts. I had
to really
load the trimmer with capacitance to get it there.   Is this normal? I
noticed the xtal
was 13.990 mHz on the schematic. Maybe I was fighting a typo in the
directions?...

Thanks in advance for any info,
Randy WJ4P

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: WJ4PRandy@aol.com
Subject: [1440] QRP Freq's
Message-ID: <951216010022_91668086@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Hey guys, what are the customary qrp freq's for 80, 30 and 20 mtrs?

Thanks,
Randy WJ4P

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: km@PACT.ORG.PE (Kris Merschrod)
Subject: [1444] Stop paddling around and "reads like 75Mtr sounds"
Message-ID: <m0tQwYl-000O2GC@rcp.net.pe>

MOUSING AROUND instead of PADDLING AROUND

There is something "esthetic" about a paddle, just like the feel of a
good key, but they are becoming collector's items.

The way to go is with a top quality mouse -- gut it, put your keyer
chip inside, hook its tail to the key jack and use those soft,
sensitive micro switches and a light touch of the fingers to "key"
the rig.

Depending on the ergonomics of the mouse it is very comfortable and
easy on the hand and fingers.

"reads like 75Mtrs sounds!"   Low blow to both sides!

The QRP-L list could be done in sections like a news paper.

I'll stick to that tune until it happens!

Kris
OA4DBO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: wynnt@utkux4.utk.edu
Subject: [1439] test message - do not read
Message-ID: <wynnt.112.007A0EF6@utkux4.utk.edu>

This is a test.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Subject: [1461] Re: Argonaut PTO
Message-ID: <5880.819158926@safety.ics.uci.edu>

> Anyone have experience with a "sluggish" PTO tuning mechanism?
..
> The Argo works fine. Even got the California FOX with a ham stick on
> the second floor patio railing!

Hi Dennis and the group:

Common problem, means you have 100 thousand miles on your PTO and
need a rebuild. The tension is just too loose. It is set at the
rear of the PTO with two screws on a black plastic center fitting
that holds the shaft of the inductor and turning mechanism. I
recommend buying a Ten Tec rebuild kit (cheap) and going through
the exercise. You can make the PTO as smooth as you like.

72

Clark
WA3JPG

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [1446] Re: CW "Accents"...
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.951216091408.543163936C-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

On Fri, 15 Dec 1995 dsa@apollo.hp.com wrote:
>   The other day, I heard a W6 sending with a really interesting
>   accent.   Sounded something like:
>
>   whooooooop whoop whooooooop whoop . . .
>   whooooooop whooooooop whoop whooooooop . . .
>

>   Must've been a some kind of "Valley" accent ;-)
>
>   -Dale
>
Sounds like he had made his key from the bill of a certain kind of crane.
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Richard Haynes N5QXF <rhaynes@metronet.com>
Subject: [1464] Re: CW "Accents"...
Message-ID: <Pine.HPP.3.90.951216201850.3298A-100000@fohnix.metronet.com>

On Sat, 16 Dec 1995 cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU wrote:

> On Fri, 15 Dec 1995 dsa@apollo.hp.com wrote:
> >   The other day, I heard a W6 sending with a really interesting
> >   accent.   Sounded something like:
> >
> >   whooooooop whoop whooooooop whoop . . .
> >   whooooooop whooooooop whoop whooooooop . . .
> >
> >   Must've been a some kind of "Valley" accent ;-)
> >
> >   -Dale
> >
> Sounds like he had made his key from the bill of a certain kind of crane.
> LB, W4RNL
>
>
Is that one of the cranes that taste like a condor or bald eagle ? 8^)

======== Richard Haynes - N5QXF - rhaynes@metronet.com ========

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: David Speegle <dspeegle@dialin.ind.net>
Subject: [1458] Re: fox
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951216172059.893A-100000@dialin.ind.net>

Im not sure either, but welcome to the group. Dave NE9F

==========

| David Speegle Email Alias: David.Speegle@dialin.ind.net
|
|
| 311 S West St.
|
| Argos, IN 46511
| Phone: 219.546.3848 FAX:
==========

On Sat, 16 Dec 1995, MICHAEL C. TODD wrote:

>
>
> In that I'm new to QRP and this group, and since I do not wish
> to provoke flaming ridicule, will someone please tell me how
> this form of FOX hunting works? My only experience with FOX
> hunting dates back to the 10 Meter AM days about 40 years ago.
> Now I think they are called T- HUNTS.
>
> Thanks es 73 Mike T. W9UQB
>
> --
>
>
> [B[C
>
>
>

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: JCoote@aol.com
Subject: [1463] Re: Getting the SWR down?
Message-ID: <951216202134_92301239@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-12-15 15:06:09 EST, fifield@lan.nsc.com (Dave Fifield)
writes:

>Last weekend, I put up a new antenna, a 40m dipole fed with 450 Ohm
>ladder line so that I could tune it to other bands too. The centre
>is at 35 feet and the ends are at about 15 feet: everything is well
>clear of all metal and other objects. It went up on Saturday, just
>before the storms in the bay area...and it's still up!
>
>I built a version of the W1FW resonant tuner described in several of
>the ARRL publications (QRP Classics, Antenna notebook etc.), and it
>seems to have tuning abilities on all the bands I have inductorized

>it for, but....
>
>I can only get a 1:1 vswr on 80m. On 40m, the best I can get is
>about 2:1, and on all the higher bands, I'm lucky if I can get it
>down to 3 or 4:1!!! The books suggest that you ought to be able to
>get perfect 1:1 vswr on all bands.
>
>Can anyone suggest a remedy? A different antenna tuner type perhaps?
>Anyone seen a problem like this before. All help would be greatly
>appreciated.

Before you go postal and kill your tuner, try changing the feeder length or the antenna length. There are probably several length combinations which will load on all bands with that tuner. You might borrow a friends tuner. Does your ARRL tuner have a balun at the output and is it a good design?

Some tuners have enough L and C in them to work with low and medium impedance lines (and very little reactance) but if the impedance is high or the reactance swings a great deal, the tuner may not have enough L/C left over to cancel the reactance and provide a match.

How much L/C does it take to make a good tuner?
A cheap, coax-only tuner might only have 75 pF caps and a 15 uH coil.
The better tuners with tapped or roller coils have 20-30 uH and 250-350 pF caps, and these values will cover a wide variety of random wires and center-fed (balun required) antennas.

This problem is why some hams like the G5RV antenna, the G5RV is no better or worse than a zepp or dipole of similar size but it does provide a pretty tame impedance for tuners and even direct coax feed in some cases. The G5RV flat-top is about 102' total and the feeder is 32' to 34' depending on whether 450 ohm open or 300 ohm TV line is used.

Try different lengths.

73, Jay
WB6AAM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: n2mnn@openix.com (STEVEN PITUCH)
Subject: [1445] Re: Getting the SWR down? (LONG)
Message-ID: <199512161418.JAA21983@pantera.openix.com>

Dave,
Your antenna layout is probably fine. I don't use antennas as short but the theory should be the same.

The fact that you are using 450 ohm feedline is good. It minimizes feedline losses at high SWR. High SWR in the feedline of a multiband dipole is a fact of life. I think the characteristic impedence of a resonant dipole is about 72 ohms in free space. Yours is probably not that value but it really doesn't matter, and also it doesn't matter if it doesn't resonate on 40 M.

What most people don't realize is that if the impedence going into a feedline (at the antenna) is not equal to the characteristic impedence of the feedline, the impedence will be different everywhere along the length of the feedline. For example, if you had 50 ohms at the center of a dipole, and used a 50 ohm feedline, the impedence would be the same all along the line all the way to the rig. This is an impossible situation in a multiband dipole, and probably not even practical in a resonant dipole. If the impedence at the center of your dipole is anything other than 450 ohms at the frequency of interest, the impedence at the end of the line will depend on the length of the feedline! Cut, or more practically add a few feet to the end of the feedline, and the SWR without the tuner will change. The change is great at 10 meters, and less on the lower bands because the change is proportional to the added length divided by the wavelength.

The advice from the ham that suggested the 10 or 20 foot feedline change was good.

The advice from the ham that suggested you check your tuner was good. But I built the same tuner you did (DeMaw's resonant ATU) and it works fine. Its a great QRP tuner. Mine uses all 4 inductors and the 3 switches. It will eventually work on one of the combinations of the three switches if I make the adjustments described below. However, I doubt that the inductor for a specific band will be the one that will work. You said that you only put some of the inductors in for specific bands. Put them all in, even if you have to wind one on a piece of PVC pipe. It will still work. There are too many variables in antenna building. By putting all of the inductors in the resonant ATU, you'll get more inductor choices by using more than one inductor at a time in the circuit, and you'll probably get a usable combination.

Varying 450 ohm feedline is hard to do because you can't coil the slack on the ground. Also, if you need to run the line into the house you might get the line too close to metal, or create a little RF in the shack. My advice, and once again I think another ham suggested it, is to hang a 1:1 balun on the side of the house, if you don't have aluminum siding, or on a wooden post next to the house if you do. Then run a high quality coax to the tuner in the house from the balun. This will insure that the rfi stays outside the house. I use 9913 coax, the hollow stuff that has a solid 8.5 gauge center conductor. A lot of people say that RG8X is OK, but those db loss numbers are normally for SWRs less than say 15:1. A dipole resonates on odd harmonics. Yours would ideally be OK on 40 and 15 meters. However, on even harmonics I believe the impedence of a dipole could be on the order of

thousands of ohms, (3000 ohms I think would be SWR = 60:1). So use the best coax available. Its really cheap if you only make it a short run. Then you can add 10 foot jumpers to the coax in the shack where you can coil it up on the floor.

Don't use a 4:1 balun as they are lossier, especially at high SWR.

I typically need to add a piece of coax to my feedline to get 90% of the bands to tune with my tuner. If you can do this consider yourself lucky. Usually, before I do this I can only tune one band. If one band is stubborn after getting a good length for the added piece, then add a second piece until it is OK on that band, but only use that additional piece when you want to work that band.

It sounds like a lot of work but its using your noggin, and thats what this net is all about. There is no such thing as a multiband single wire dipole that doesn't need a tuner, and stay away from traps. Even Mr. Varney, (G5RV), said at the end of his famous article that you're better off just extending the ladderline as far as you need to, just like your antenna. (See ARRL Antenna Compendium No.1, or I'll mail you a copy if you want.)

The only man I know that seems to be 99.9% correct about what he says about antennas is Kurt N. Sturba, who has a monthly column in World Radio Magazine. His 2 books, Aerials, and Aerials II are classics, informative, entertaining, and easy to read.

When people say that the longer and higher your dipole is, the more signals you will hear, they really mean it. Just make it as best you can and enjoy it. However, I just did some numbers on the calculator and it seems your apex angle is about 105 degrees. The max recommended is usually 100 degrees, but I think even then there is a significant cancellation of the signal. The 20 foot vertical components of each leg of your dipole cancel. The horizontal component of each 33 foot leg comes out to only 26 feet. (Draw a right triangle with the shortest leg 20 feet, the longer leg 26 feet, and the diagonal 33 feet.) So I think radiation wise your probably using the equivalent of a 52 foot dipole, not a 66 foot 40 M dipole. As far as effectiveness goes, I have tried a G5RV and a 66 foot dipole at 30 feet elevation, and they were both about 4 S units worse (24 db) than my 40 M full wave vertical loop with its top at 50 feet, and a 240 foot dipole at 60 feet. If I had made either of the 30 foot antennas inverted vees the reception would have been even worse. I managed to get QRO W.A.S. with the G5RV but it was not easy. When I put up the higher antennas, I thought my radio was broken because of all the static on 40 M. I have managed to work most of Africa since putting up the higher antennas. With the other antennas, I never even heard a single station from Africa. Its amazing what 30 db will do for your DXCC. For the record, a 24 db decrease is like using slightly less than 20 milliwatts instead of 5 Watts.

My experiences may not apply directly to yours. This is because I only had a narrow opening between a forrest of 60 foot trees in my back yard to put up my antennas. The 30 foot high antennas were therefore, for all practical purposes, *in* the trees. It might have been like digging a 60 foot hole in the ground, and hanging the antennas at the minus 30 foot mark! The fact that these 30 foot high antennas were put up in 1991-1992 when the sunspots were more cooperative might be why I managed to survive. Back then you could get WAS and DXCC on 10 M SSB in a few months. My 40 M full wave loop (only 35 foot square!) with the top at 50 feet is still in the trees but is so good that I want to stop playing with wire and now concentrate on operating. The 240 foot dipole is actually lying on top of the trees for all of its length, except for a 20 foot section at the center where the ladder line comes down between the trees. My property is not that long, but on top of the trees, the dipole is totally invisible to others. It is probably not as good as being 60 feet up in free space but it is still the best I've ever tried. If your antenna is clear of nearby objects you'll probably be OK but since you had to go inverted vee you're probably in the same space situation that I'm in.

By the way the loop and the 240 foot dipole are omnidirectional as far as I can tell. I've never had a directional blind spot either in the horizontal or vertical pattern. Every station no matter where they are sounds the same on either antenna.   This is probably because of all the interaction with all the flora that my antennas are touching. Personally I like the vertical loop better, even though they both hear indentically.   The vertical takes up less space (35 feet square), has a nearly constant impedence on *all* harmonics, and 100KHz bandwidth on 40 M. When I'm browsing on a band, I just set the tuner once, and forget it. With the dipole I reset the tuner every 10-20 KHz. OHR sells a loop fact sheet written by Doug DeMaw for a couple of bucks.   I can confirm that everything in that report is accurate, and I can send a copy to you if you want.

Guys,
Sorry if something I said above is not exactly 100% correct, but think I've communicated the jist of it. I had to read books for 5 %$#@!%#$ years, and play with tons of wire until I got it right. It was all very frustrating, so I know how the new guys feel.   I've started writing it down for new hams, so they can find it all in one place, and therefore have a five year headstart. And I will take Mr. Sterba up on his offer and submit the draft to him to check for inaccuracies before issuing it.

Also sorry for the bandwidth, but I only submit to QRP-L when I feel its necessary, and in words per week its not a lot. New hams need all the *good* advice they can get about antenna problems, and there are quite a few of them on this net.   Please send flames to my personal address. Lets not pollute the Internet.

73,

Steve Pituch, N2MNN
N2MNN@OPENIX.COM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: kd7s@valleynet.com (Bill Jones)
Subject: [1449] Re: Mice and keys
Message-ID: <199512161749.JAA23905@sierra.valleynet.com>

Tony and the group,

I have been using converted computer mice as keyer paddles for many years. The microswitches inside most mice are usually very high quality and will stand up quite well under the rigors of keying.

I have built one small (very simple) keyer into the mouse itself and it worked nicely. The only parts used from the origianal mouse were the microswitches and the case. Because there are no standard shapes and sizes for computer mice, you will probably have to tailor a circuit board to fit. However, there is no reason you couldn't hard-wire up a Curtis chip on a piece of perfboard cut to fit the case. Use a small thumbwheel pot as a speed control and mount it on the board so the knob sticks out the side of the mouse case near your thumb.

If you would like to see a picture of a mouse converted for use as paddles only, look at the July, 1994 issue of QST on page 12. Also, I submitted a small paper to the QRP ARCI on how to convert a mouse for use as paddles. Whether they will see fit to publish it in QQ or not remains to be seen.

If I can be of any help in making your own MouseKey, please let me know. I've had quite a bit of experience with them.
==========
Bill Jones - KD7S <><
QRP-L Member #85
Sanger, California
Reply to kd7s@valleynet.com
==========

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [1451] Re: Mice and keys

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.951216100906.22683B-100000@vortex>

Hi Bill,

Your very nice article on the mouse conversion had to be
left out of the Jan issue of the QRP Quarterly because I
just ran out of pages!

The Jan issue includes all the resumes for the BoD elections.

But for anyone who would like a copy of the article, just send
a SASE, (4 1/8" X 9 1/2"), and I'll be glad to send one. One
unit of postage will be OK.

Send to:

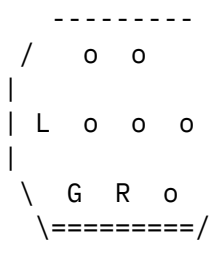
Monte R. Stark, KU7Y
285 W. 4th Ave.
Sun Valley, NV 89433

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
...QRP-L #17....ARRL....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Johnson_Dan@AAC.COM
Subject: [1453] Re: Mice and keys
Message-ID: <9512162139.22763.ab@SMROUTER.AAC.COM>

The talk of mice had me wondering whether I could adapt to using one as paddles.
A neighbor gave me two "ergonomic" Microsoft bus (not serial) mice a while back,
and a continuity check revealed this in its connector:



"====" is a flat strip of metal, presumably to aid insertion into a normal bus mouse port. With the left mouse button pressed, G-L is closed (0 Ohms). With the right, G-R. G also seems connected to the connector chassis. I cut two 2" pieces of stranded, insulated hookup wire and stripped one end of each. Slipping the unstripped ends over L and R allowed me to connect three alligator test leads (ground to the metal connector chassis) between the mouse and the posts of my Vibroplex paddles for a test drive.

With the keyer in an IC-745, the mouse paddles are OK up to about 18 WPM then are difficult to control. At higher rates, I need to slap those buttons to avoid extra elements. Maybe it would just take practice at QRQ. Pretty decent for armchair or mobile sending, I would think, and usable without a keyer with just the left botton. I'll stick with the Vibros and RJ-1 when available, however.

Not having a bus mouse adapter in the PC, I don't know whether my ohmmeter probing or use in the Icom keyer circuit rendered the mouse inoperative as such, warning only.

72 de KC4EWT
Johnson_Dan@aac.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: kd7s@valleynet.com (Bill Jones)
Subject: [1456] Re: Mice and keys
Message-ID: <199512161913.LAA28071@sierra.valleynet.com>

Dan and the group,

My approach to using mice as keyer paddles has always been to isolate the microswitches from the rest of the mouse circuitry and re-wiring the connecting cable accordingly. Each mouse is different and you will find capacitors, resistors and semiconductor junctions getting in the way of proper keying. Use a sharp knife to cut the traces between the switches and the rest of the board components. Then, using an ohm meter, check for the normally open contacts. Use the switches all by themselves and you will save yourself some grief in the long run

 It takes a little getting used to but it won't be long before you find yourself clipping along at 25-30 wpm with a MouseKey. And, they work great for portable operation. Also, put a small piece of Velcro(tm) on the bottom of the mouse. Mate that to another piece of Velcro(tm) glued to a strap big enough to fit around your leg. You now have the perfect paddles for mobile operation.

==============================
Bill Jones - KD7S <><
QRP-L Member #85
Sanger, California
Reply to kd7s@valleynet.com
==============================

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Hank Kohl K8DD <k8dd@sun.tir.com>
Subject: [1462] Re: Mice and keys
Message-ID: <9512170027.AC25240@tir.com>

At 14:18 12/16/95 EST, you wrote:
>Dan and the group,
>
> Also, put a small piece of Velcro(tm) on the bottom
>of the mouse. Mate that to another piece of Velcro(tm) glued to a strap big
>enough to fit around your leg. You now have the perfect paddles for mobile
>operation.

Say what? Velcro? No wonder I was having a hard time using a mouse with the keyer....I set it up so that when you move the mouse forward, the speed goes up....Backward, the speed goes down....to the left, the weighting goes up....and to the right it goes down.....

And it was really tough mounting those little pots in the mouse, too.

Darn....here they come again to take me back to the home....another short weekend visit on the outside, Nils.

73   Hank

*/   Hank Kohl K8DD   k8dd@tir.com
*/   MI-QRP QRP-ARCI G-QRP NorCal
*/   ARRL/LM QCWA/LM QCAO/LM

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>
Subject: [1450] Re: QRP Freq's
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.951216130242.21725A-100000@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

WJ4PRandy@aol.com <Randy WJ4P> writes on Sat, 16 Dec 1995 01:03:00 EST

>Hey guys, what are the customary qrp freq's for 80, 30 and 20 mtrs?

The QRP hailing freq's are 1.810, 3.560, 3.710, 7.040, 7.110, 10.106,
14.060, 21.060, and 28.060 according to the Dec. 95 QST Considerate
Operator's Frequency Guide.

72/73,
Clay N4AOX

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>
Subject: [1454] Re: QRP Freq's (Correction)
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.951216133745.23192A-100000@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

On Sat, 16 Dec 1995, Wynn C C wrote:

>
> WJ4PRandy@aol.com <Randy WJ4P> writes on Sat, 16 Dec 1995 01:03:00 EST
>
> >Hey guys, what are the customary qrp freq's for 80, 30 and 20 mtrs?
>
> The QRP hailing freq's are 1.810, 3.560, 3.710, 7.040, 7.110, 10.106,
> 14.060, 21.060, and 28.060 according to the *Jan '96* QST Considerate
> Operator's Frequency Guide.
>
..and that was just for CW. The SSB hailing frequencies are
 1.910, 3.985, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, and 28.385 MHz.--Same source.

72/73,
Clay N4AOX

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 16 21:09:55 1995
From: GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [1452] Re: QRP Tuner!
Message-ID: <199512161820.NAA03537@dartvax.dartmouth.edu>

>Has anyone had experience with the qrp tuner that is put out by mfj
>company. It is the one that tunes random and coax. It sells for 89.00
>dollars. Dave NE9F
>
>===
>| David Speegle   Email Alias: David.Speegle@dialin.ind.net
>|
>|
>| 311 S West St.
>|
>| Argos, IN   46511
>| Phone: 219.546.3848 FAX:
>===
>
>

Hello Dave,

I have been using a MFJ 971 for about a year now. It is a very nice
piece of gear.However! this is after I had to fix a few things
inside.

MFJ= MIGHTY FINE JUNK, is the moniker for the company and it is
justly deserved. Although the prodiuct themselves are well designed,
they are "NOT" very meticulous in putting them together.
I fixed a few loose connections, and the power selection option pins
were in the wrong place. Forward power and reverse power have a
selectable dual range. FWD was set high, and rev was set low, AT THE
FACRORY. They should have been both in one or the other. Typical MFJ.

The screw holes in the cover did not line up well with the chassi either.
Again, typical MFJ.

I do reccomend the unit, it has worked perfectly since I fixed it up.
You might just get one that is perfect,then again, maybe not.

You can expect problems from MFJ,and if you have none,
your ahead of the game .I will still buy some things from them,
because they are the only source for some store bought things.

I found it cheaper and less time consuming to take a chance on MFJ
and then fix it, than to try to build it my self. Please note, this
was bought before I knew about the St.Louis tuner.

Would I buy this unit again? Yes.

de AA1IK   N.E.-QRP-C. # 202   (Lead by example, It is better to   )

QRP-L member #95. (pull a string than it is to push it.)

Ernie Gregoire
RR 1 Box 221
Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information
available on request by sending me a
 S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET
packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA